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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1191ST MEETING

17 JANUARY 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1191 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1191st meeting held on 17 January 2024 considering the Conclusions of the Third Joint Retreat of the PSC of the AU and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) held from 11 to 12 December 2023, under the theme: *“Strengthening Diversity Management in Africa as an effective Response to Governance, Peace and Security Challenges in Africa.”*

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling previous Assembly Decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.758 (XXIII)] adopted during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union, held on 9-10 February 2020, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, highlighting Article 6 (3) of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Statute (2020) which provides that the APRM shall contribute to early warning for conflict prevention within the continent, in harmony and synergy with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA);

Committed to the effective implementation of its previous decision through Communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.1069 (2022) adopted at its 1069th meeting held on 10 March 2022, which adopted the eThekweni Conclusions of the Inaugural Joint Retreat between the PSC and APRM;

Faithful to the relevant provisions of the AU Constitutive Act, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, particularly Article 12 on the Continental Early Warning System, and all related AU normative instruments on democracy and good governance;

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Commends** the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the successful hosting of the Third Joint Retreat of the PSC and the APRM, from 11 to 12 December 2023, in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province;
2. **Expresses appreciation** to H.E. Ambassador Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia, Chairperson of the PSC for December 2023, and H.E. Abdoulie Janneh, Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Panel of Eminent Persons, for co-chairing the Third Joint Retreat between the PSC and APRM;
3. **Adopts** the Conclusions of the Third Joint Retreat of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the African Peer Review Mechanism; and **requests** the AU Commission and APRM Continental Secretariat to ensure the implementation of the Conclusions;
4. **Requests** the AU Commission and the APRM Continental Secretariat to prepare the matrix of the status of the implementation of the Conclusions for the consideration and adoption by the Council;
5. **Applauds** Member States who have voluntarily undergone reviews and their respective progress of implementation of the recommendations emanating from the African Governance Report 2023 on Unconstitutional Changes of Government; **encourages** them to redouble efforts in strengthening institutions to promote democracy, good governance, constitutionalism and the rule of law in accordance with AU normative instruments;

6. **Urges** APRM to re-examine its methodology in country reviews to ensure that reviewed countries do not relapse into conflict, and this regard **requests** the APRM to timely submit early warning reports for the consideration of the Council in order to timely respond to predicted emergence of conflict;
7. **Underscores** the need for the APRM, working in collaboration with the AU Commission, to accompany countries in political transition and provide necessary support towards a swift return to democratic order and constitutionalism;
8. **Expresses appreciation** to all the partners for their support towards the organisation and successful holding of the Third Joint Retreat;
9. **Decides** to hold the Fourth Joint Retreat at a date to be jointly agreed upon, focusing mainly on early warning and areas for further enhancing the role of the APRM in contributing towards conflict prevention and strengthening good governance in accordance with AU normative instruments; in this regard, **directs** the PSC Committee of Experts, with the support of the AU Commission and the APRM Continental Secretariat, to dedicate efforts towards the preparations of the holding of the Fourth Joint Retreat of the PSC and APRM; and
10. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.